(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of the deaths have taken place due to Swine Flu in Pune and other places because of late diagnosis and lack of expertise in dealing with multiple medical conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to increase the availability, of enough Infectious Diseases (ID) specialists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A total of 537 deaths have been reported due to Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) of which 214 deaths are from Maharashtra. Deaths were due to late arrival of patients to the treatment centres and had other co-morbid conditions. Mean interval between onset of symptoms and admission to the health facility is about 5.3 days.

Central Rapid Response teams assist the States of Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka to contain/ mitigate the pandemic. Guidelines have been issued for mitigating the pandemic by providing access to patients with influenza like illness to dedicated screening centres, categorizing them for home care or hospital care depending upon the risk and severity and providing, treatment without testing. These are also available at our website http://mohfw-hlnl.nic.in. For those hospitalized patients who require testing, 41 laboratories have been identified to test the clinical samples. All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level. States have been given adequate stock of Oseltamivir the drug to treat influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu). Restricted Sale has also been allowed through private chemists.

Public awareness is created through print and visual media campaign on prevention and for seeking treatment at designated screening centres and hospitals.

(c) Public Health Foundation of India has been established to address the limited institutional capacity in India for public health including infectious diseases. It has established 4 new institutions of public health and is assisting the growth of existing public health training institutions and departments. Mandate of addressing the capacity development is also taken up by premier institutions such as National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi, Sree Chitra TirunalInstitute of Medical Sciences, Trivandrum and National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Aviation Training Academy in Shillong

437. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the austerity drive and economic slow down in the Air India, Government proposes to set up a State-of-the-art Aviation Training Academy and a call centre for Air India in Shtllong;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred in setting up of such an Academy; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated by the Central Government for the said purposes in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Comfortable transit for Haj pilgrims

438. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi International Airport Limited has promised a comfortable transit for Haj pilgrims out of Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Haj pilgrims have expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements at the Airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi International Airport Limited have made the following arrangements to ensure comfortable transit for Haj Pilgrims:-

(i) Upgraded Haj Terminal for Operations; (81) Maintenance checks carried out; (lii) Liaison with Customs, Immigrations, CISF; (iv) Displayed Haj Signages; (v) Temporary Tentage created; (vi) Provided temporary parking space for meters/greeters; (viii) Deployed Traffic Marshalls & Raxa staff; (vii) Tow crane kept ready for smooth traffic; (ix) Alternate route to T2 & New Udaan Bhawan identified and repaired; (x) Barricading of Pedestrian routes and Traffic Marshalls to assist passengers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Delhi International Airport Limited has informed that it has received a lot of appreciation, albeit verbally.

Rise in airfares by airlines

439. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: